

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend claims 1, 16, 17, and 21 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating distribution of a transaction account card through a distributor, the method comprising the steps of:

issuing a transaction account card to the distributor; and

receiving information from the distributor via a MICR protocol, wherein said information reports the distribution of said transaction account card,

wherein said transaction account card is one of a plurality of cards, ~~and~~

wherein said plurality of cards are consigned in groups to the distributor, and

wherein said transaction account card is a credit card or a debit card.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of activating said distributed transaction account card.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

associating a first number with said transaction account card, wherein said first number is configured to conform to said MICR protocol, wherein said first number comprises, at least in part, a plurality of sequential numbers; and

associating a second number with said transaction account card, wherein said second number is a randomized account number.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a purchase agreement is associated with said transaction account card and bears indicia of said first number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said indicia of said first number is embodied in a MICR line visible on said purchase agreement form.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said second number is an account number, wherein said distribution comprises a sale of said transaction account card, and wherein the distributor is a third party seller.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of processing said information via a pre-established Travelers Cheque infrastructure.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of paying said third party seller a commission for said sale of said transaction account card based on at least a portion of the information received from said third party seller.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising a serial number and an account number, and wherein said activating step further comprises the step of confirming that activation is appropriate by confirming at least one of the following information received from a third party distributor: a purchase location, said serial number and said account number.

12. (Previously Presented) A transaction account distribution device for facilitating the distribution of a card by a distributor, said transaction account distribution device comprising:

a card, wherein said card is also associated with a first number that is configured for communication in MICR protocol; and

a purchase agreement form configured to bear a MICR line configured to be machine readable for conveying said first number to a computer system.

13. (Original) The financial transaction device of claim 12, wherein said first number is a serialized Travelers Cheque number.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The financial transaction device of claim 12, wherein said card is a pre-paid card.

16. (Currently Amended) A transaction account distribution device for facilitating the distribution of a card by a distributor, said transaction account distribution device comprising:

a card, wherein said card is also associated with a first number that is configured for processing by a Travelers Cheque infrastructure;

a purchase agreement form configured to bear a line configured to be machine readable for conveying said first number to a computer system,

wherein said card is a credit card or a debit card.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating distribution of a transaction account through a third party distributor comprising:

a transaction account issuing system configured to issue a plurality of transaction accounts to a distributor;

a distributor system configured to distribute ~~the~~ cards associated with the transaction accounts and to communicate with the transaction account issuing system via a MICR protocol,

wherein said communication provides information relating to the distribution of the transaction accounts via the cards.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the transaction accounts are associated with a first number and a second number, and wherein said first number comprises, at least in part, a serialized number.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein said first number comprises a Travelers Cheque number, wherein said distributor system is a third party distributor system that is configured to communicate information related to the distribution of the transaction accounts to said transaction account issuing system; and wherein said information is configured for processing via a Travelers Cheque infrastructure.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the cards are pre-paid cards and wherein each of the pre-paid cards are funded no earlier than the sale of the pre-paid card by the distributor.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating distribution of a transaction account through a distributor comprising:

a transaction account issuing system configured to consign a plurality of transaction accounts to a distributor; and

a distributor system configured to distribute cards associated with the transaction accounts and to communicate with the transaction account issuing system via a pre-established financial infrastructure,

wherein said cards are credit cards or debit cards.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for facilitating distribution of a transaction account through a distributor, the method comprising the steps of:

- consigning a plurality transaction accounts from an issuer to a distributor;
- associating the transaction accounts with cards; and
- transmitting information from the distributor to the issuer, and processing said information via a Travelers Cheque infrastructure,

wherein said information reports the distribution of said transaction accounts by distribution of the cards.